

THE NUN.

An Episode of Convent Life.

(Translated from the French by Mrs. M. J. F. Thoms, A. M.)

CHAPTER II.

THE PROFESSION.—Continued.

When I had finished answering the ordinary questions, the abbess led me away to make the change of costume. Then they placed it about me. My hair was carefully hidden under the black-headed hood that covered my forehead. In the twinkling of an eye my rich toilet had given place to the severe uniform of a religious, and I was reconducted to my place before the altar, with my black robe without a girde, a little veil upon my head, and a candle in my hand. Then followed the different ceremonies, during which the bishop, having blessed the veil, scapular, girde, cross, and all the other complements of a sacred habit, gave them to the abbess who arranged them upon me with much pomp, and completed my nuptial costume by placing a crown of roses and thorns upon my veil.

I have undertaken a task that I am not able to accomplish, for these forms, not authorized by the Scriptures, appear so blasphemous that I am unable to go into details. I will only say that the ceremony ended after we had all received the host (wafer) from the hand of the bishop; then I dropped the hand of the abbess and going around the choir, I embraced each of the nuns. Many of them appeared to be greatly moved.

I had then become a cloistered nun, and though I had not yet taken the black veil, I was none the less bound by my vows than if I had taken it; how could I ever be able to re-enter society after having been separated in such a public manner? I perceived that also when the ceremony was terminated, and I was astonished that I had not sooner seen the danger.

It was then with a profound sadness that I followed the abbess into the saloon behind the grating where I first met her; and when I comprehended that I was not to see my dear Mme. Verani except through these barriers, I was so unhappy that I was not able to entirely dissimulate.

An elegant breakfast, the expense of which was my charge, had been prepared in the grand hall; behind the grate was placed a second table, covered, like the rest with bon-bons, fruit and syrups. The guests were the abbess, Monsieur and Mme. Verani, some friends that I had invited, and many priests attached either to the establishment or to the person of the bishop. On the other side of the grate were the abbess, some of the governesses and myself as queen of the festival, but none of the sisters. The conversation during the repast was animated, gay, and even facetious. The gentlemen had the most distinguished manners and the barriers which separated the tables formed no impediment to conversation. Mgr. and Mme. Verani and I were the only ones who were apparently otherwise than gay. I say apparently, for it was impossible that many of the other invited guests could be truly happy in the bottom of their hearts. Before the breakfast was finished, Mme. Verani asked permission to visit me soon; the abbess responded that it was only once a month that the young daughters were able to see their friends.

I have forgotten to say that during all the festival I was called the spouse—a name truly glorious when taken in the sense in which it was given; a name which, given by Him who only has the power to confer it, is raised as high above all other earthly names as the heavens are above the earth, and which, given by some mortals in virtue of a vain ceremony, becomes a supreme blasphemy.

At length our spiritual fathers left us; Mme. Verani took the hint, and as the black curtains fell noiselessly over the grate, I prepared to follow the abbess into that part of the establishment where I had not yet been introduced.

Henceforth I shall present myself to the reader under the name of Angeliqne, which name I had chosen according to the wish of the madame, and in place of the one given me by my parents. But before leaving the saloon, when the company had parted, she told me to give my crown to the assistant mother that she might deposit it in a safe place; "and don't forget," she exclaimed, "to write her name upon it. Do you know the object of this, my daughter?"

"No madame," I answered. She sighed and Mother Ursula laughed outright. Then placing her thin hand upon my shoulder, she said: "The crown is preserved, that you may have it in your coffin; it is the custom in this house. The daughters of the world go down to their graves with their vestments of death, but we wear the crowns that our spouse gave us in the days of our espousals."

I made no response, for I did not dare to venture any reply, but I felt an inexpressible sadness creeping over me, and the enthusiasm in which I had lived many days rendered it more bitter. The abbess, doubtless, noticed it, for she

hastened to change the conversation; she made me some demonstrations of tenderness which at the same time filled me with apprehension. I began to understand that the cup which they sweetened in the beginning would be very bitter. There was a sort of triumphant secret in the eyes of Mother Ursula while the abbess lavished her caresses upon me. The scene was soon ended, and the madame led me toward my future companions.

It was the custom in this house to render the day of profession of a new nun as gay as possible. The sisters pass the entire afternoon under the fire upon the green sward, which is delicious in summer. The time of my profession was a magnificent day in June.

The repast was finished and the sisters were in the garden, scattered in several groups on the sward, when the abbess, accompanied by Mother Ursula and Sister Annuciata, conducted me into the presence of those whom I was to regard as my future companions. They all arose coming to meet us, and received me with a nod, while the oldest nun pronounced a solemn benediction in the name of Notre Dame Misericorde, after which the abbess dropped my hand and returned to the house with Mother Ursula. Sister Annuciata remained near us.

I expected that my first three acquaintances would come to me, but I was disappointed in my hope; they gave me a nod—their attentions went no further.

In the midst of so many strangers I should have been very much embarrassed, if one of the sisters with a white veil had not gently taken my hand and drawing me to her upon the sod, whispered in my ear: "We are of the same rank, Sister Angeliqne, and, perhaps, you will find my society as agreeable as that of certain persons of a superior order; at least I shall not humiliate you, by my sanctity."

"Pauline!" cried a white nun seated at my left, for I had seated myself by the side of my new acquaintance, "will you never have any prudence?" And leaning behind me she spoke a few words in a low voice to my companion, who laughed and said: "Let's do it!" Then addressing herself to me she said: "Sister Angeliqne, shall I make known to you the political state of the house?"

"It might be much better to let her discover it for herself," said the other sister whose name was Eustasia.

Meantime two other sisters of the white veil joined us, and after Pauline's invitation, seated themselves upon the sward. An aged nun who seemed to have some authority over the novices, accompanied them. I had seen her many times; her expression was one of remarkable kindness, and though I do not believe I ever saw a prettier face more ugly under a capuchin hood, I loved this person the moment I saw her. She was an excellent person in her way, though a strict papist, and Mother Genefride had never been able to crucify the warmth of her feelings, and the cold policy of the Romish church had left them untouched. She had a tendency towards Jansenism, for she maintained constantly that kindness is much more likely to change the heart than coldness and severity. She was very ignorant and her mind was uncultured, but she was indulgent so far that she was not always blamed for that which was considered worthy of reproach. The superior passed over these defects since the presence of Mother Genefride in the convent induced many of the novices to take the black veil. Now, it must not be forgotten that in the policy of the Romish church, the end justifies the means.

There were five or six of the novices, and Mother Genefride in our midst. Pauline commenced to acquaint me with what transpired in the house, when Sister Annuciata and Sister Marguerite came into our group. The latter addressed a few words to me about the weather, while Annuciata, rebuking Pauline, asked her if she thought it was fitting to turn the mind of the "spouse" from the solemn engagement she had taken.

"A scene like that of today, my sister," she exclaimed, "ought to recall you to your individual espousals, and the grave obligations that you have contracted; permit me to ask you not to be the cause of vain things with Sister Angeliqne today."

"I understand those duties," answered Pauline, "and what our Lord requires of each one of us as His spouse."

"That is well," said Annuciata; and she took, with her friend, the road to the house.

"May Notre Dame de Misericorde pardon me my hypocrisy," said Pauline as soon as they were out of sight, "but that Annuciata and those other crabbed creatures are capable of making hypocrites of all the saints in the calendar!"

"Hush!" said Mother Genefride, "it is truly a miracle that you have not been placed in penitence, Pauline. You are very blameable for allowing yourself to use such expressions."

"Remember, my good mother," said Pauline, "that there should be some respect shown to a novice. Suppose that I should take it into my head to resume my secular habit and bid you adieu."

(To be Continued.)

DA GAMA READY TO QUIT

Seeks Asylum Aboard a Portuguese War Vessel.

TERMS ON WHICH HE SURRENDERED.

Wants Prisoners to Guarantee Protection to Himself and Followers Against Punishment.—Secretary Gresham Receives the News in Cipher.—Latest About Hawaiian Affairs.—Queen Liliuokalani's Reply.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Advice received at the state department late Monday afternoon from Minister Thompson at Rio de Janeiro indicates the Brazilian rebellion is about ended. The dispatches from Minister Thompson contain the information that Admiral da Gama has gone aboard the Portuguese war vessel Mindelo now in the harbor at Rio and has sent to President Peixoto by the Portuguese officer an offer of surrender on condition of protection for himself and followers. Two dispatches were received in cipher by the department which translated read as follows:

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 12. Gresham, Washington: Da Gama today through the senior Portuguese naval commander, offered to surrender to the president of Brazil providing he and his followers were guaranteed protection against punishment.

THOMPSON. RIO DE JANEIRO, March 12.

Da Gama has gone aboard a Portuguese man-of-war for asylum. Thompson. Another dispatch was received at a late hour Monday night by Secretary Gresham from Minister Thompson containing the additional information that Da Gama asks that he and his followers be allowed to leave the country and the lives of his private soldiers be spared. It is regarded by prominent officials as without question that the government will accept the surrender with the terms asked for.

Marks the End of the Rebellion.

Secretary Gresham believes this marks the end of the rebellion. There is considerable surprise expressed here by those interested in the affairs at Rio that the offer of surrender should have been made through the Portuguese commander, who up to this time has not shown any particular disposition to take any hand in the conflict. It is not thought that the act of the Portuguese in receiving da Gama is necessarily an act of sympathy with the insurgents. The Portuguese are said to recognize a principle of international law, now obsolete, by which right of asylum, as it is called, is granted temporarily by a neutral power to a defeated belligerent. This right of asylum is not recognized of late years by most nations, except in cases of half civilized people, and, moreover, the Brazilian insurgents have never been recognized by any body as belligerents, therefore some speculation as to the exact meaning of the action of the Portuguese commander is heard.

Minister Mendonca Unwilling to Talk. Minister Mendonca admitted that he had received news of the surrender, but he was unwilling to give out any news concerning da Gama's offer of surrender or discuss the probable action of the Brazilian government. He, said, however, he had no doubt final settlement had been made by the time he was speaking, or would certainly be made soon.

Notice of the intention of the Brazilian fleet to begin an active attack on the insurgents' fleet had been given Sunday noon to neutral forces in the harbor. This notice was given 48 hours before the frigate was to begin. According to this arrangement firing could not begin until Tuesday noon. Da Gama's surrender was made, therefore, fully 24 hours before an attack was to be expected. The offer, in fact, followed the first actual show of determination on the part of the Brazilian government.

LATEST NEWS FROM HONOLULU.

Queen Liliuokalani Not Willing to Go on the Stand as a Witness.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 13.—The steamer Warrimoo has arrived with Hawaiian news one day later than received at San Francisco on the Australia.

HONOLULU, March 14.—Some months ago, W. C. Smith, editor of the Star, attacked in his paper Charles Wilson, the ex-queen's marshal and alleged paramour. Wilson had Smith arrested five times on suits for criminal libel. Smith claimed he intended to subpoena the ex-queen as a witness. Yesterday afternoon the cases against Smith were all dropped on account, it is claimed, of his intention of forcing Liliuokalani to take the witness stand. This is taken as a sign that the royalists have given up hopes of restoration as in that event the queen could not be summoned. The new law referring to aliens went into effect today and several arrivals by the Warrimoo had some difficulty in landing. Several men were detained on board.

Capri's Proposal.

BERLIN, March 13.—Chancellor Von Capri submitted to the Bundesrath a proposal for the coinage of 11,000,000 marks in 5-mark pieces; 7,000,000 marks in 2-mark pieces, and 4,000,000 in 1-mark pieces. The proposition was made as a result of the increase in the demand for such coins and from the fact that the silver coinage has fallen 22,000,000 marks below the authorized limit.

A British Judge Dead.

LONDON, March 13.—The Hon. Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, who was appointed a judge on the bench of the high court of justice in 1879, died in Ipswich.

Gladstone's Literary Work.

LONDON, March 13.—Gladstone finished a translation of Horace Odes into English verse on the same day he resigned office.

Russo-German Treaty.

BERLIN, March 13.—In the reichstag the Russian-German commercial treaty passed the second reading by a vote of 100 to 145.

GLEANINGS FROM THE WIRES.

James McConnell, a minor, fell 90 feet from the shaft of a mine at Crittendon, Ohio. He will die.

W. Evans, a farmer living near Girardell, Iowa, fell from his wagon and broke his neck.

Michael Albrecht and John Kogler, 15-year-old boys, were drowned while crossing the river at Bellevue, Iowa.

The 2-year-old son of E. B. Shepherd, of Columbus, Ohio, ate concentrated lead and will probably die from the effects.

Antonie Turk, an Austrian, about 50 years old, blew out the gas in the St. Nicholas hotel in Joliet, Ill., and was asphyxiated.

The body of George Ash, who was drowned last October at Dallas City, Ill., was found in the Mississippi at Alton, Ill., and identified by papers.

Mrs. L. D. Coffey, of Brazil, Ind., wife of Judge Coffey, of the Indiana supreme court, was thrown from the carriage in a runaway, and it is feared she was injured internally.

J. L. W. Merrill, of Kansas City, is to contest the will of his uncle, J. L. Woods, of Cleveland, Ohio.

At Atchison, Kan., the Missouri river is cutting a new channel, endangering property valued at \$1,300,000.

An investigation at Cleveland, Ohio, shows that Assistant Fire Chief Speddy sold his influence to contractors.

Control of the mammoth artesian well at Chamberlain, S. D., has been lost and surrounding property is in danger. Steel works covering 800 acres of land and employing 3,000 men will be removed from Johnston, Pa. to Cleveland, Ohio.

Milwaukee proposes to license chattel mortgage sharks, limit their charges and compel the keeping of an official record.

Superstitions Poles, of Nanticoke, Pa., suspect a neighbor woman of being a witch and have threatened to kill her.

Explorer Wellman was given a silk flag by the National Capital Press Club and requested to hoist it at the north pole.

Citizens of Greenwood, Ind., have boycotted a saloon-keeper so thoroughly that he cannot buy food, raiment or water.

Owners of copper mines in Michigan affected by Commissioner Lamoreaux's decision will fight the Portage company in court.

An element of uncertainty has been brought about in Indiana politics by the action of about 40,000 colored voters in taking steps to establish an independent organization.

Caldwell Refused the Injunction.

LITTLE ROCK, March 13.—Engene F. Ware and J. W. Green, leading lawyers of Topeka, Kan., were before Judge Caldwell with an application revoking the license of certain insurance companies to do business in that state. The application for the injunction and the proceedings before the superintendent of insurance grew out of the celebrated Hillman life insurance case which has been pending for many years before the Kansas supreme court. The injunction was refused.

Reports Cattle in Good Shape.

DEADWOOD, S. D., March 13.—T. W. Driskell, the cattle king, has just returned from the northern range. He has been traveling constantly for ten days from the head of the Little Missouri to Stoneville and over the Driskell and Wier ranges. In all his trip he had not discovered a dead animal, he found no snow on the ranges, and the cattle are looking better than they did one year ago. He thinks the loss will not exceed 3 per cent.

Kansas Delegates to Omaha Convention.

TOPEKA, March 13.—The governor appointed the following delegates to the irrigation convention at Omaha, March 21 and 22: D. M. Frost, Garden City; J. S. Bristol, Salina; J. K. Wright, Junction City; N. D. Colburn, Topeka; J. W. Gregory, Garden City; E. R. Moses, Great Bend; G. W. Clement, Wichita; J. H. Churchill, Paola; Prof. Robert Hay, Junction City, and H. V. Hineckley, Topeka.

Coal Men Indicted.

DES MOINES, March 13.—A sensation was sprung here by the indictment by the grand jury of George A. Webster and L. R. Clements, comprising one of the largest coal firms in the city. They are charged with swindling the West Des Moines school district out of a large sum by fraudulent weights.

Firebugs at Boone.

BOONE, Ia., March 13.—There have been eight incendiary fires here in three months, all set at 9 p. m. Monday night the brick block owned by B. Arie was fired and damaged \$4,000. The building was occupied by a livery stable and storage house. The fire started on the second floor in the hay.

Officers and Miners Fight.

MIDDLESBORO, Ky., March 13.—A fight occurred between strikers and United States deputy marshals at Mugo mines. One of the strikers was seriously wounded. The strikers made a bold attempt to burn the tippie at the mine, but were driven off.

Coal Operators Organizing.

CHICAGO, March 13.—The coal operators of Illinois met to form plans for an organization so as to be in touch with each other in case of trouble with employees. The organization will be perfected soon.

Travelers to Meet at Milwaukee.

ST. LOUIS, March 13.—The national board of directors of the Travelers' Protective association has decided upon Milwaukee as the place to hold the next annual convention and June 19 the time.

U. S. Court at Hastings.

HASTINGS, March 13.—Judge E. S. Dundy and a small crowd of United States district court officials came down to Hastings to hold the annual session of the court. No cases were called up.

Colonel Breckinridge's Opponent.

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 13.—A large and enthusiastic audience greeted Hon. W. C. Owens here. He is a candidate for congress in opposition to Colonel Breckinridge.

Veteran of the Mexican War.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 13.—General James J. Hickman, an old and prominent citizen, died here, aged 64. He was a veteran of the Mexican war.

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Every A. P. A. should read it, and if a copy could be placed in the hands of every Catholic, it would work a revolution, for the laity of that church believe because ignorant, and are not informed of the plottings of its priests.

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It matters not how small the sum, every American who prizes that boon should help swell the fund. We do not ask any one to go into this, but will receipt for any amount sent in for the fund.

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PLATE II.—The Burden of Egypt (Isaiah Ch. XLIX). The Plans of the Architect for the Building of the Great Pyramids—Illustrated by Diagrams, the passages and chambers of the same shown; how dimensions conform to the "Cabala." Meaning of Egypt. A hint why the Great Pyramids were built.

PLATE V.—The Song of Joshua, after he commanded the Sun and Moon to "stand still." The time thereof and its meaning. Certain parts of "Psalms," "Ezekiel" and "Jasher" compared to determine their relative age, and their related origin.

PLATE VI.—The process of adopting and adapting Bible Literature, in Nation Building, from the Great Models—Illustrated by Diagrams. Did not write the Bible, and why. The dispersion of the Authors of the Bible, and the probable time, and why. Protestantism and Romanism, who are now defined, when and where.

PLATE VII.—The Abstract of the "Cabala" as shown in the "Psalms," "Proverbs," "Job," "Isaiah," "Ecclesiastes" and "Song of Solomon." Form of the "Cabala" and their meaning. The Bible "Paraphrase" as "Cabala" derived to the "Cabala" reveals the hidden truths of which it is the symbol.

PLATE IX.—Authors and History. The Patriarchs—the meaning thereof. Positive evidence that the Bible was written in Britain, the Temples at "Abyrny and Stonehenge" built to demonstrate the living laws of the Universe; the Heavens, and the Constellations thereof, exhibited on the plains at Stonehenge.

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